

In December, along with Mr. ENGEL of New York, I introduced the SECURE Our Democracy Act that would sanction any foreign individual or entity found to have unlawfully interfered with our election process. That shouldn't be a partisan issue, yet all of the bill's 88 cosponsors are Democrats.

I am also a cosponsor of the Protecting Our Democracy Act to establish an independent commission to get to the bottom of the Russia investigation.

A recent NBC-Wall Street Journal poll conducted in April found that 73 percent of our fellow Americans want such an independent commission. They want to get at the truth. So do I. So should all of us. I have signed a discharge petition to get that bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support these two measures, and to bring them to the floor for consideration. It is our constitutional duty to provide oversight of any executive in any executive branch.

The American people demand answers and accountability, not obstruction and intimidation. Appointing a special counsel, independent of the White House and the Attorney General, was one way to begin to restore credibility that has been badly tarnished. I urge us to proceed with the Russia investigation with all dispatch.

#### FOSTER YOUTH SHADOW DAY

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the struggles that foster youth encounter, and to celebrate their perseverance and fortitude as they attempt to navigate this complicated system and transition to adulthood.

In Arkansas, we have over 5,000 children currently in the State's foster care system.

I am proud to work with my colleagues on the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth to shed light on the perpetuation of poverty and dysfunction our current system enables. And I stand proudly in support of House Resolution 314, recognizing May as National Foster Care Month.

For the past 2 years, I have had the opportunity to have a former foster youth personally shadow me for a day. What a rewarding experience.

This year, I am honored to host Starr Wilson, a former foster youth from my district. After spending 10 years in foster care, Starr, who is full of drive and passion, graduated with honors from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

Unlike Starr's story, though, when many youth across America age out of the system, they find themselves with no place to call home, and they lack the encouragement and structure they need to pursue happiness.

Therefore, I am proud to stand with the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth in praise of the Sixth Annual Foster Youth Shadow Day here on Capitol Hill, which allows these youth to come across our country and share time with Members of Congress, and aspire to be the leaders of generations to come.

#### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I am going to follow up on the prior speaker. I rise in support of National Foster Care Month. This month, we renew our commitment to ensuring that the 420,000 youth who are in our Nation's foster care system have a caring family and the opportunities they deserve.

I am proud to be a member of the Foster Youth Caucus, which is devoted to highlighting the efforts of all those involved with improving our Nation's foster care system.

I also rise to celebrate Congressional Foster Youth Shadow Day. Today, more than 100 former foster youth from across the country are in D.C., paired with Members of Congress as we conduct the Nation's business.

I am privileged to host Shantell House and Jeremiah McWright from California. Shantell is currently a student at Mills College and is passionate about current and former foster youth. Jeremiah joins me from San Diego, where he is studying public policy and has the potential to become a great business leader, or even a politician.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Shantell and Jeremiah, along with all of the participants of the Congressional Youth Shadow Day, to our Nation's capital.

#### RECOGNIZING BRITNI BURLINGHAM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud member of the Foster Youth Caucus, and also as part of a family that was involved in the foster care system.

Today I have the opportunity to spend time with Britni Burlingham as part of the Annual Foster Youth Shadow Day.

Britni is a social work major at Edinboro University in Pennsylvania. She is also a case aide for the Bair Foundation, a nonprofit organization that focuses on foster care and adoption.

This profession is rewarding for Britni because she has a firsthand experience. She entered the foster care system when she was just 7 years old.

Britni has said that being able to work with children who have had simi-

lar experiences to hers is life-changing. She and her husband also provide a loving home to their two foster daughters.

I am grateful that I can spend time today with Britni and hear about her positive experience with foster care. Her adoptive family built a strong foundation for her to achieve success in her own life.

Mr. Speaker, this is what foster care is all about.

I thank Britni for being here today, sharing her story and helping so many children overcome similar obstacles.

Congratulations, Britni. We are all very proud of your success.

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#### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL BAHAR

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael Bahar, who will be leaving the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, where he has served as general counsel since September 2012, and as staff director and general counsel since early 2015.

Because of Michael's commitment to always finding a way to "yes," he has helped guide HPSCI to a run of remarkable legislative success over the past 2 years. In a city of tacticians, Michael's great gift is his ability to look at things strategically, even while reacting in real time to emerging matters at hand.

Under Michael's leadership of the HPSCI Democratic staff, we have passed two successive bipartisan intelligence authorization acts, both of which received multiple and successively larger vote tallies each time they came to the floor.

In June 2015, we passed the USA FREEDOM Act that ended bulk collection of telephony metadata under section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, replacing it with a new regime more protective of Americans' privacy.

And later in 2015, the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 was included as part of the 2016 omnibus spending bill. CISA, which encourages businesses and the Federal Government to share cyber threat information in the interest of national security, could not have been timelier.

Neither bill would have been possible without Michael's tireless efforts. He worked on a broad range of issues with a broad range of stakeholders, in and out of government, and these measures were necessary and effective in securing our liberties.

Prior to joining the committee, Michael served with dedication in the Obama White House as Deputy Legal Adviser to the National Security Council staff. He is a Naval reservist supporting U.S. Special Operations Command.

After a well-deserved vacation, Michael will embark on a new career as a